

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 518

Honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer
in the field of marine conservation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. PALLONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation.

Whereas Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born on June 11, 1910, in Saint-Andre-de-Cubzac, France, to Daniel and Elizabeth Cousteau;

Whereas Jacques-Yves Cousteau in 1930, after having made his preparatory studies at the College Stanislas in Paris, entered the Naval Academy in Brest and became an officer gunner;

Whereas after serving in the French Army during World War II, he was decorated with the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor;

Whereas in 1950, Jacques-Yves Cousteau founded the French Oceanographic Campaigns (COF), and he leased a ship called Calypso and equipped her as a mobile laboratory for field research and as a support base for diving and filming where he traversed the most interesting seas of the planet as well as big and small rivers;

Whereas from 1952 to 1953, Jacques-Yves Cousteau took the Calypso to the Red Sea and shot the first color footage ever taken at a depth of 150 feet, for a documentary titled “The Silent World”;

Whereas “The Silent World” was filmed using ground-breaking skin-diving gear that Cousteau invented with engineer Emile Gagnan in 1943, freeing divers from heavy helmets and allowing them to be free and weightless as if in space;

Whereas in 1956, “The Silent World” won the top award at the Cannes Film Festival and the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in the United States;

Whereas in 1973, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, with his two sons Jean-Michel and Philippe, and Frederick Hyman, created the Cousteau Society for the Protection of Ocean Life, today boasting a membership of over 360,000 people;

Whereas in 1977, Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Peter Scott were awarded the United Nations International Environment prize for outstanding contributions in environmental advocacy;

Whereas in 1977, the “Cousteau Odyssey” series premiered on PBS, and seven years later, the “Cousteau Amazon” series made its television premiere;

Whereas in 1985, in honor of his achievements, Jacques-Yves Cousteau received the Grand Croix dans l’Ordre National

du Mérite from the French government and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas throughout all of his voyages, Jacques-Yves Cousteau produced over 120 films and authored or contributed to roughly 50 books; and

Whereas Jacques-Yves Cousteau passed away in Paris on June 25, 1997, after spending a lifetime of 87 years inventing, exploring, and storytelling: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
2 the life, achievements, and distinguished career of
3 Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer
4 in the field of marine conservation.

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